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27. (Amended) A computer program, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

receive a first electronic document;

receive [receiving] a user input that selects an instruction for assembling a hard copy document;

determine [determining] in the computer the visual appearance of the first electronic document once printed and assembled in accordance with the instruction; and

produce [producing] as output the determined visual appearance.

Please add the following new claims:

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38. (New) A method of depicting a hard copy document, comprising:
receiving in a computer an electronic document;
receiving in the computer a user input that selects an instruction for assembling a hard copy document by selecting pre-printing physical characteristics of a print media material on which the electronic document will be printed;
determining in the computer a visual appearance of the first electronic document as if assembled in accordance with the instruction and then printed; and
producing as output the determined visual appearance.

39. (New) A method of depicting a hard copy document, comprising:
receiving in a computer an electronic document;
receiving in the computer a user input that selects an instruction for assembling a hard copy document by physically modifying a print media on which the electronic document will be printed;
determining in the computer a visual appearance of the first electronic document as if printed and then assembled in accordance with the instruction; and
producing as output the determined visual appearance.

40. (New) A method of depicting a hard copy document, comprising:

receiving in a computer a first electronic document;
receiving in the computer a user input that selects an instruction for assembling a hard copy document by binding a plurality of pages of print media on which the electronic document will be printed;
determining in the computer a visual appearance of the first electronic document as if printed and then assembled in accordance with the instruction; and
producing as output the determined visual appearance.

41. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the plurality of layers includes an organizational information layer, a background layer, a printed content layer, a virtual proof annotations layer, and a finishing options layer.

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42. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein producing the determined visual appearance as output includes displaying the determined visual appearance on a computer monitor.

43. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the visual appearance of the first electronic document includes obscuring a portion of the output in areas corresponding to a portion of the hard copy document that would be obscured when the hard copy document is printed and assembled in accordance with the instruction.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the instruction identifies a stapling binding, and the obscured portion is located where the staple will be placed in the hard copy document.

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the visual appearance of the first electronic document includes providing an of the thickness of the assembled document.